THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 19, 1968

MEMO FOR MR. ROSTOW

In view of the unusual redeployment yesterday of 200 Soviet Tactical Air Force fighters back to the Czech border, the attached message takes on added significance.

David Y. McManis

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By ich NARA, Date 6- 27-05

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THE US ARMY ATTACHE PRAGUE, REPORTED THAT AS OF 210645Z
SOVIET FORCES HAD FULL MILITARY CONTROL OF PRAGUE, INCLUDING THE
SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, MAJOR MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AND INSTALLATIONS.
OCCUPYING FORCES WERE ESTIMATED TO INCLUDE A SOVIET AIRBORNE
DIVISION, ONE SOVIET MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION, ONE T-62 TANK
BATTALION, TWO T-55 TANK BATTALIONS, 30 PT 76 TANKS, TOWED AND
SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY UNITS WITH GUNS RANGING FROM 122MM TO
152MM AND 37MM/57MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY UNITS VOMPLETE
WITH FIRE DIRECTION EQUIPMENT. ALL TROOPS WERE ARMED WITH STANDARD
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. AIRFIELD AT RUZYNE, WEST OF PRAGUE, WAS
OCCUPIED AND UNDER CONTROL OF SOVIET AIRBORNE TROOPS AND KEELY,
EAST OF PRAGUE WAS UNDER SCVIET CONTROL, AND WAS BEING USED FOR

3.3 (b)

AIR LAND OPERATIONS BY AN-12 AND AN-8 AIRCRAFT. AN UNIDENTIFIED ESFG MUTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION ALS. WAS REPORTED ENROUTE TO PRAGUE VIA SLANY. CONTINUOUS FLIGHTS OF AN-12 TO THE PRAGUE AREA ARE DELIV-ERING TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE PT-76 TANKS AND DIR-40 PERSONNEL CARRIERS. OTHER CZECH AREAS WHICH ARE PROBABLY UNDER SOVIET CONTROL INCLUDE ASH, BRNO, MORAVSKA OSTRAVA, PRIBRAM AND ZATEC.

THE SOVIETS HAVE IMPRESSED SOME CIVILIAN CSSR TRUCKS FOR TROOP TRANSPORT. ONLY SPORADIC SMALL ARMS FIRE HAD BEEN REPORTED BY 210515 HOURS PR AGUE LOCAL TIME; HOWEVER, AT 6755 HOURS INTERMITTANT SMALL ARMS FIR E WITH HEAVY SUSTAINED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WAS REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOLE RADIO TRANSMITTER IN PR AGNE REMAINING IN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

> 3.3 (6) (1)(3)

REPORTS BY RELIABLE COLLATERAL SOURCES PLACE OBSER VED SOVIET TRANSPORT SORTIES AT 250. IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF TRANSPORT SOR TIES INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 20/2 300Z S SUBSTANTIALLY IN EXCESS OF

SO FAR TAF EAST GERMANY APPEARS TO BE INVOLVED IN WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED SUPPORT MISSIONS: TROOP SPOTTING, AIR DEFENSE COVER, AND PROBABLE CLOSE IN GROUND FORCES SHUTTLING. THREE INDEPENDENT RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENTS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS BOTH NEAR AND OVER THE CZECH BORDER. TØ100 FIGHTER DIVISION AT MERSEBURG HAS APPARENTLY SUPPLIED THE AIR DEFENSE COVER. NO ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FIGHTER AND FIGHTER BOMBER AIRCR AFT THAT HAVE FLOWN INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME: HOMEVER.

FIGHTERS LANDING AT CZECHOSLOVAK AIRFIELDS

JOHN SECRET THINK

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